

Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel Claims 4, 5, 9 and 13-27. Please amend Claims 1, 6 and 10. Please enter Claims 28-40. The Claim Listing below will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

Claim Listing

1. (Currently Amended) A method of diagnosing or aiding in the diagnosis of a neuropsychiatric bipolar disorder in an individual comprising
 - a) ~~obtaining a nucleic acid sample from the individual, and~~
 - b) determining the nucleotide present at ~~one or more~~ two or more of nucleotide positions 476, 942 and 1635 of the dopamine beta-hydroxylase gene[[],] in a nucleic acid sample obtained from an individual,
wherein
 - a) presence of ~~one or more~~ two or more of an A at nucleotide position 476, a G at nucleotide position 942 or a C at nucleotide position 1635 is indicative of an increased likelihood of a neuropsychiatric bipolar disorder in the individual as compared with an individual having ~~one or more~~ two or more of a G at nucleotide position 476, a T at nucleotide position 942 or a T at nucleotide position 1635[[],], and
 - b) the individual is an individual symptomatic for bipolar disorder and/or at risk for development of bipolar disorder.
2. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the dopamine beta-hydroxylase gene has the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.

3. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the nucleotide present at all three of nucleotide positions 476, 942 and 1635 of the dopamine beta-hydroxylase gene is determined.
4. (Canceled)
5. (Canceled)
6. (Currently Amended) A method of diagnosing or aiding in the diagnosis of a neuropsychiatric bipolar disorder in an individual comprising
 - a) ~~obtaining a nucleic acid sample from the individual, and~~
 - b) determining the nucleotide present at one or more two or more of nucleotide positions 476, 942 and 1635 of the dopamine beta-hydroxylase gene[[.]] in a nucleic acid sample obtained from an individual,wherein
 - a) presence of one or more two or more of a G at nucleotide position 476, a T at nucleotide position 942 or a T at nucleotide position 1635 is indicative of a decreased likelihood of a neuropsychiatric bipolar disorder in the individual as compared with an individual having one or more two or more of an A at nucleotide position 476, a G at nucleotide position 942 or a C at nucleotide position 1635[.], and
 - b) the individual is an individual symptomatic for bipolar disorder and/or at risk for development of bipolar disorder.
7. (Original) The method according to Claim 6, wherein the dopamine beta-hydroxylase gene has the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.

8. (Original) The method of Claim 6, wherein the nucleotide present at all three of nucleotide positions 476, 942 and 1635 of the dopamine beta-hydroxylase gene is determined.
9. (Canceled)
10. (Currently Amended) A method for predicting the likelihood that an individual will have a neuropsychiatric bipolar disorder, comprising the steps of:
 - a) ~~obtaining a DNA sample from an individual to be assessed; and~~
 - b) determining the nucleotide present at ~~one or more~~ two or more of nucleotide positions 476, 942 and 1635 of the dopamine beta-hydroxylase gene~~[,]~~ in a nucleic acid sample obtained from an individual,
wherein
 - a) presence of one or more two or more of an A at nucleotide position 476, a G at nucleotide position 942 or a C at nucleotide position 1635 is indicative of an increased likelihood of a neuropsychiatric bipolar disorder in the individual as compared with an individual having one or more two or more of a G at nucleotide position 476, a T at nucleotide position 942 or a T at nucleotide position 1635~~[.]~~, and
 - b) the individual is an individual at risk for development of bipolar disorder.
11. (Original) The method according to Claim 10, wherein the dopamine beta-hydroxylase gene has the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.
12. (Original) The method according to Claim 10, wherein the nucleotide present at all three of nucleotide positions 476, 942 and 1635 of the dopamine beta-hydroxylase gene is determined.

13-27. (Canceled)

28. (New) A method for predicting the likelihood that an individual will have bipolar disorder, comprising determining the nucleotide present at two or more of nucleotide positions 476, 942 and 1635 of the dopamine beta-hydroxylase gene, wherein
 - a) presence of two or more of a G at nucleotide position 476, a T at nucleotide position 942 or a T at nucleotide position 1635 is indicative of a decreased likelihood of bipolar disorder in the individual as compared with an individual having one or more of an A at nucleotide position 476, a G at nucleotide position 942 or a C at nucleotide position 1635, and
 - b) the individual is an individual at risk for development of bipolar disorder.
29. (New) The method according to Claim 28, wherein the dopamine beta-hydroxylase gene has the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.
30. (New) The method according to Claim 28, wherein the nucleotide present at all three of nucleotide positions 476, 942 and 1635 of the dopamine beta-hydroxylase gene is determined.
31. (New) A method of assessing the likelihood of increased symptomology associated with bipolar disorder in an individual comprising determining the nucleotide present at two or more of nucleotide positions 476, 942 and 1635 of the dopamine beta-hydroxylase gene in a nucleic acid sample obtained from an individual, wherein
 - a) presence of two or more of an A at nucleotide position 476, a G at nucleotide position 942 or a C at nucleotide position 1635 is indicative of increased symptomology associated with bipolar disorder in the individual as compared

- with an individual having two or more of a G at nucleotide position 476, a T at nucleotide position 942 or a T at nucleotide position 1635, and
- b) the individual is an individual symptomatic for bipolar disorder and/or at risk for development of bipolar disorder.
32. (New) The method according to Claim 31, wherein the dopamine beta-hydroxylase gene has the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.
33. (New) The method according to Claim 31, wherein the nucleotide present at all three of nucleotide positions 476, 942 and 1635 of the dopamine beta-hydroxylase gene is determined.
34. (New) A method of assessing the likelihood of decreased symptomology associated with bipolar disorder in an individual comprising determining the nucleotide present at two or more of nucleotide positions 476, 942 and 1635 of the dopamine beta-hydroxylase gene, wherein
- a) presence of two or more of a G at nucleotide position 476, a T at nucleotide position 942 or a T at nucleotide position 1635 is indicative of decreased symptomology associated with bipolar disorder in the individual as compared with an individual having one or more of an A at nucleotide position 476, a G at nucleotide position 942 or a C at nucleotide position 1635, and
- b) the individual is an individual symptomatic for bipolar disorder and/or at risk for development of bipolar disorder.
35. (New) The method according to Claim 34, wherein the dopamine beta-hydroxylase gene has the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.

36. (New) The method according to Claim 34, wherein the nucleotide present at all three of nucleotide positions 476, 942 and 1635 of the dopamine beta-hydroxylase gene is determined.
37. (New) A method of diagnosing or aiding in the diagnosis of bipolar disorder in an individual comprising determining the nucleotide present at nucleotide position 476 of the dopamine beta-hydroxylase gene in a nucleic acid sample obtained from an individual, wherein
 - a) presence of an A at nucleotide position 476 is indicative of an increased likelihood of bipolar disorder in the individual as compared with an individual having a G at nucleotide position 476, and presence of a G at nucleotide position 476 is indicative of a decreased likelihood of bipolar disorder in the individual as compared with an individual having an A at nucleotide position 476, and
 - b) the individual is an individual symptomatic for bipolar disorder and/or at risk for development of bipolar disorder.
38. (New) The method according to Claim 37, wherein the dopamine beta-hydroxylase gene has the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.
39. (New) A method for predicting the likelihood that an individual will have bipolar disorder, comprising determining the nucleotide present at nucleotide position 476 of the dopamine beta-hydroxylase gene in a nucleic acid sample obtained from an individual, wherein
 - a) presence of an A at nucleotide position 476 is indicative of an increased likelihood of bipolar disorder in the individual as compared with an individual having a G at nucleotide position 476 and presence of a G at nucleotide position

476 is indicative of a decreased likelihood of bipolar disorder in the individual as compared with an individual having an A at nucleotide position 476, and

- b) the individual is an individual at risk for development of bipolar disorder.

40. (New) The method according to Claim 39, wherein the dopamine beta-hydroxylase gene has the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.